



e-News

December 19, 2018

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“Advent is not just about Christmas! Rather, it is about the beginning of the Christian year. The focus is on the future of all things as seen through the eyes of those who follow Jesus. At the same time the Season of Advent takes history seriously and encourages us to remember and reflect upon God’s mighty acts and how they affect us today.” *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God*, by R. Job, N. Shawchuck, J. Mogabgab

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we anticipate the joy, excitement, and wonder of Jesus’ birth. Then in the evening at 5:00 p.m. we begin our Candlelight Services to celebrate Jesus’ birth. How good it is for God to be With Us in and through the Lord Jesus Christ!

— Craig Herr

This Sunday I am preaching from Isaiah 9:2-7. Verse 2 speaks about the Messiah as a great light that shines in the darkness. On the life journey from time to time we come across some darker times; times when we need guidance, times when we need to see the light and to have someone alongside to help us to safety. The Christ, the Jesus of Nazareth, the Baby we celebrate this season is just that—our guide and our light. So come this Sunday and let us together get acquainted with the God willing to walk with us through every storm or dark time. See you Sunday.

Blessings,
Bo

Music this Sunday:

One morning service at 9:00 a.m. — Chancel Choir

Our Church Family

Known to be in the Hospital: No one.

Congratulations to Patrick and Kristen Mau on the birth of son Hayden Michael on Monday, December 10. Proud grandparents are Jim and Nancy Mau.



CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Sunday, December 23, 5 p.m.
Contemporary Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
3:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
10:30 p.m. Musicale (Christmas Music as we gather for worship)
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

The Week Ahead

***Fellowship/Bible Studies/Small Groups:

- Kids Pizza & Caroling—Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.
- Men’s Dinner—Dec. 28, 6 p.m. At Anthony’s Restaurant & Pub, 3151 Voyager Lane, Joliet
- Praise Yoga—Thursday, Dec. 20 at 8 a.m. Praise Yoga is taking a 2-week break, resuming Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. & Thursday, Jan. 10, at 8 a.m. in the Narthex

Volunteers this Sunday, December 23, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Children’s Worship:

Megan Pritz

Greeters:

Al Brooks, Karen Luebbe

Advent Family:

The Blasers

Ushers:

Adam Halatek, Capt.

Coffee Fellowship: Pat Haldorson, Capt.;

Sound Room: Rich Pool

Video Screens:

Christmas Eve Greeters:

3:00 p.m.—Emmie Ostrem

7:00 p.m.—Betsy O’Mara

11:00 p.m.—

Christmas Eve Ushers:

3:00 p.m.—Barb Rodgers, Allan & Marion Somers

7:00 p.m.—Jen Beck, Lisa Ambler, Lisa Haldorson

11:00 p.m.—Ed Schultz, Roger Hileman, Laura Schultz

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

Please remember—we have one Sunday Morning Service this Sunday! We worship at 9:00 a.m. only, in the morning this Sunday, December 23. In the evening we hold our first Christmas Candlelight Worship Service.

Four Christmas Candlelight Worship Services. We have four Candlelight Services to celebrate Christ's birth. The first one is on Christmas Eve-Eve, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. Then we have three more Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, December 24. They are at 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. (Musical is at 10:30 p.m.) I encourage you to bring your guest(s) to any of our Candlelight Services.

Habitat Preparing to Build a New Home. Habitat is going to build a new house in the 1500 block of North Raynor Ave. this summer. If you are interested in helping to build this new home, which is not far from our church, please let me or one of our Mission Council Members know: Mary Kessling or Mahryha Iwema. Dave Cavanaugh and I attended the meeting to learn about the details for the new home and the wider mission of Habitat for Humanity in Will County.

“God With Us, Devotions for Advent” by David Boyd is available in the Narthex/Lobby area this Sunday. It's a very good spiritual resource for preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. If your Advent Season has been a very busy one, you can use the devotional after Christmas to reflect upon and celebrate Jesus' birth.

In Christ,
Craig

KIDS

Pizza and Caroling tonight, Dec. 19! Meet at church at 5:30 p.m. for dinner before we go caroling.

YOUTH

Midweek Family Night: Join us tonight for a time of caroling! We will be meeting at FPJ at 5:30 sharp for some pizza before we head to a local nursing home and sing Christmas carols for the residents. Bonus: I have Christmas headbands that I am more than happy to share! There will be no Mid-Week Teen Bible study on December 26, January 2, or January 9.

Wildfire Youth Group: This Sunday we will be attending the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Service at FPJ before we head to our Christmas Party! We will have a Saran Wrap Ball game (the center has a \$20 gift card!), enjoy decorating some sugar cookies, and we will read the Christmas story. Plus, if time allows, we will play a few “minute-to-win-it” Christmas themed games! There will be no Youth Group on December 30 or January 6.

Fellowship Event: On January 4 at 6:30 p.m. we will meet at Bob Becker's to watch *I Can Only Imagine*. Snacks will be provided, but make sure you eat dinner before. Bob's address: 1951 Macher St., Crest Hill. We look forward to seeing you there! The movie should be done around 8:45 p.m.

FAMILIES

Mid-Week Family Night. We'll meet tonight as usual at 5:30 p.m. for pizza before we go caroling at Willow Falls Retirement Community.

(We are taking a 3-week Winter Break; next Mid-Week Family Night is January 16.)

Mission

The PW Mitten Tree is up! This tree, in the back entry hall, is dedicated to help keep the children at Farragut School warm in these freezing months. Donations of mittens, hats, boots, and gently used outerwear are appreciated.

PW thanks everyone for helping with the **2nd Time Around Christmas Sale**. We raised \$1,030 for local missions! Your contributions made this event possible.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken at Christmas services December 23 and 24. Seventy percent of the offering goes to support the Night Deacons' Food Ministries, and 30% goes to support assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and the racially ethnic schools and colleges affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Mission to the Homeless—Easy open canned goods, warm socks, toiletries, etc. are always needed and now that winter is here, warm hats, gloves, and socks are especially needed. If you work for a company that would like to share in this mission, call Linda Zoellick at 520-400-8396.

December 16, 2018

Worship Attendance — 216

Stewardship Report

2018-2019 Budget: \$ 799,852

Year to Date Receipts \$538,225

Year to Date Expenses \$536,252

2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received — \$14,000

Please call Tracy Norris If you wish to use electronic giving through your bank. We also have online giving in which you can use your credit card. Just go to our Website, www.firstpresjoliet.org, and click on “Giving.” Tracy is also receiving Pre-Pledges for 2019 and 25% of pre-pledged giving is used for January-March 2019, while 75% is used for April-December of 2019.